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Bizerte:

France Withdraws Troops

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French troops began to withdraw October 1 from the European section of Bizerte they had occupied following the outbreak of fighting July 20. The withdrawal was completed October 3.

Details of the withdrawal were agreed upon at French-Tunisian talks in Bizerte September 16-17, and the agreement was signed September 29. Basic agreement on the withdrawal had been reached at French-Tunisian meetings that had started in Tunis after Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba had proposed September 8 that French military units continue to use the Bizerte base during the Berlin crisis.

Under the agreement: (a) France withdrew its troops to its military bases outside of Bizerte; (b) France relinquished to Tunisia control of the entrance to Bizerte harbor; (c) Tunisian troops withdrew from positions they had occupied in the Tunisian part of Bizerte and returned to their barracks; (d) Tunisia guaranteed France freedom of passage among its Bizerte installations and assured France free movement through the channel entrance from the Mediterranean to the Lake of Bizerte, site of the military bases. [See 1961 Bizerte: Bourguiba Defers Exit Demand]